

NO STRINGS THEATRE

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

No Strings Theatre is pleased to announce a virtual Audition call for its Summer Development Workshop of a Caribbean Musical (about West Indian Mythology) titled “**Dario et La Diabliesse**”.

With Book & Lyrics by **Sasky Louison** and Music by **Darryl Johnson-Dennie**, the workshop will be overseen by industry professionals **Mark Cassius** and **Richardo Keens-Douglas**.

We are seeking singer/actors who are emerging artists age 19 - 35 and teen singer/actors age 13 – 18, contemporary or legit voices, who learn music and harmonies quickly; we are particularly interested in applicants of Caribbean descent (regardless of race) or of African descent, however, persons from all racial backgrounds are encouraged to submit.

The dates of this virtual workshop are scheduled for this summer of 2021 - **July 6 - 8, 13- 15, and 20 - 22**. It is anticipated that the workshop will conclude with a recording that may be given a brief online presentation. This is a non-equity gig, however, the cast will receive a stipend for their participation.

Interested applicants are asked to submit a youtube video with one up-tempo song, one ballad (one song of Afrocentric style if possible) and a short contemporary monologue (totalling no more than 5 minutes including a brief introduction).

Submissions, with a resume in PDF format, and unlisted youtube video should be forwarded to auditions@nostringstheatre.com no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 21, 2021**.

Casting notes and creative team bios are below.

For more questions and information, please contact the Artistic Director, **Denise Williams** at denisewilliams@nostringstheatre.com

DARIO ET LA DIABLESSE

Dario et la Diabliesse: A Caribbean Musical, is a story with a twist. Instead of harming Dario - her prey - La Diabliesse falls deeply in love with him and is willing to do whatever it takes to be his wife... even if it means becoming fully human. La Diabliesse however, must convince Dario's stern yet eccentric grandmother that she loves her grandson. La Diabliesse must also convince her father - the Devil - to not steal Dario's soul.

The musical is filled with the sounds of the Caribbean namely drums, steelpan, soca, calypso, reggae, extempo, zouk, jazz and R&B. It is poetic, filled with prose and a good laugh for all. It is safe to say that Dario et la Diabliesse: A Caribbean Musical is a cross between *Once On This Island* and *The Little Mermaid*.

ROLES

LEAD - 6

Lead non-singing

Griot - Storyteller (any gender)

Lead Singing roles

La Diabliesse - female identifying

Dario - male identifying

The Devil - male identifying (will also consider female)

Ron (Dario's father) - male identifying

Sheila (Ron's wife) - female identifying

ENSEMBLE - 4

DD CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

MENTEES



SASKY LOUISON Book/Lyrics

Growing up on the beautiful islands of Saint Lucia and Barbados, Barbados being her place of birth, Saint Lucia where she did all of her primary and secondary schooling, Sasky Louison, who considers herself to be the epitome of an island girl, draws from her Caribbean-Creole culture and incorporates it in her art.

She fondly recalls, sitting with her cousins on boulders in the river close to her grandparents house, listening - scared out of her wits - to stories of mythical creatures occupying the island, hiding in plain sight but only appearing to a selected few. Sasky recalls paying special attention to the measures one should take to get out of the grasp of these mythical creatures should an unwanted encounter with one take place. These experiences birthed Dario et la Diabliesse: A Caribbean Musical.

Sasky is a Theatre Arts and English teacher, Jazz, Soul & Classical Crossover musician and writer. Her credits include, *Laff it Off* (2019 Barbados), *Rayn's Song* (2017 Barbados), *Island Tales* (2016 Toronto), *Dario et la Diabliesse- A Caribbean Musical* (2015 Toronto), *Da Kink in my Hair* (2015 Canada Tour), *Celebrant Singers Orchestra USA & France Tour* (2014), *The Passion Play Musical* (2014, 2015, 2016, Toronto) , *Xmas Xtravaganza* (2014, 2015, 2016, Toronto), *A Special Kind of Love* (2013 Barbados), *Bridgetown Goes to la Habana* (Cuba, 2012) and others.

Most recently she collaborated with Mr. Jamie Lonsdale on his Footprints Album which was released in London, England and was number 10 of the classical charts. She and Mr. Lonsdale wrote 9 songs together, 5 of which made the album cut.

On May 22, 2021, Sasky will also be launching her memoir, 16 Years Ago in which she shares her experiences growing up in a disadvantaged environment but striving for excellence despite all odds.

Sasky dreams of seeing her musicals on stages and arenas throughout the world and her memoirs/novels being New York Times Bestsellers.



DARRYL JOSEPH-DENNIE

Composer/Music Director

Born October 5th, 1989, Darryl showed interest in music at a very early age. By the time he was three years old, he had already taught himself how to play all of the demos on the family's keyboard at home and was attempting to teach other family members how to do so as well.

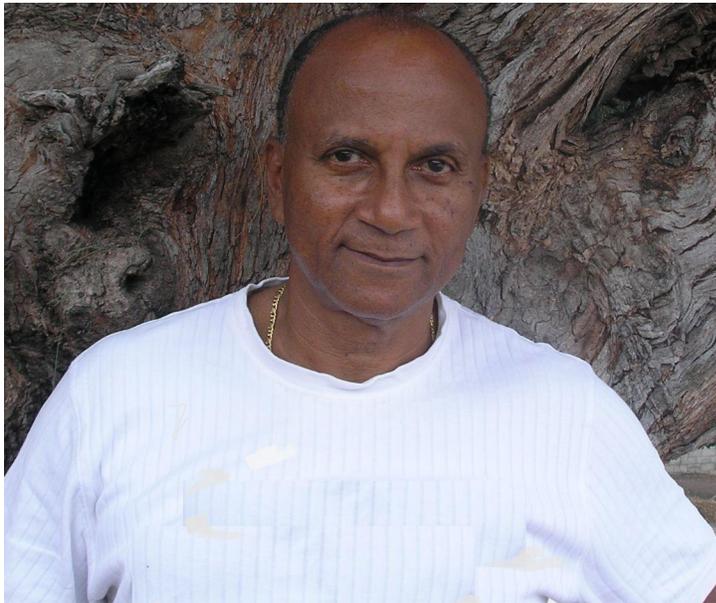
At 4 years of age, Darryl embarked on a 13 year journey of studying classical, jazz and theory at the renowned Merriam School of Music, where he is now currently positioned as a music education specialist. During those 13 years, Darryl was accepted into Merriam's Keyboard Ensemble and Enriched programs for students showing exceptional potential. Darryl also participated in numerous Festivals and competitions winning multiple first place awards and scholarships.

After attending Humber College for Jazz and Contemporary music in Toronto, Darryl then furthered his musical development by joining the music ministry at a local church. It was there that he learned how to fuse the precision of classical, the harmony of jazz and the functionality of gospel music to create his own unique voice on the piano. Darryl, later, spent four years as the lead pianist for The Church on the Queensway's Christmas and Easter musicals which also included a run of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

In 2016, Darryl headlined the Toronto Beaches Jazz festival's opening night as part of the band Really Big World (formerly 7Sould). In 2017, Darryl performed and recorded with Desiigner during Spotify's I'm With the Banned sessions. In 2019, Darryl Toured Trinidad and Tobago for the international Carifesta Festival.

Darryl also operates as the producer, music director, arranger and keyboardist for various churches and groups within the GTA including JUNO award winner; Carlos Morgan and Vocal coach for The Launch, Lorraine Lawson

MENTORS



RICHARDO KEENS- DOUGLAS **Script Dramaturg/Director**

Dora Mavor Moore Award winner
Richardo Keens-Douglas' career spans many disciplines. Actor, Playwright, Director, Choreographer, Dancer, Children's author. His play **The Nutmeg Princess** won the **Dora Mavor Moore Award, for Outstanding New Musical of 1999.** (It had 5 other nominations)

The musical **The Obeah Man**, which he wrote and had the lead garnered him a Dora Nomination for lead actor in a musical. (1985)

His Book **Freedom Child of the Sea** was chosen the official book for children for the (200 years of the Abolition of slavery - 1807) **Bicentennial Year in Canada 2007.**

In 2005 he won the Prestigious **Golden Oak Award** in Canada for his children's book, **Tales from the Isle of Spice. La Diabliesse & The Baby** won the **World Award.**

In 2003, Mr. Keens-Douglas was inducted into the **Caribbean Hall of Fame for Excellence in Theatre**

He wrote and directed the hit sold out show **AY YA YAI IVAN, a musical about Hurricane Ivan which successful toured the USA, England and Canada.**

He has also written and directed plays such as, **Kidnap Love-2018, Uncle -2014, The musical Sapodilla (Caribbean Cinderella) 2008, Sparky (Childrens' musical) 2006, Mas' Camp - 2002, Full Moon -2001.**

He has toured Canada, USA and the Caribbean with his Sterling Award nominated one-man show **Once Upon An Island**, playing to sold-out audiences.

He made Caribbean history by being the Host of the Caribbean version of the hit show **Who Wants To Be A Millionaire.**

He has authored 12 Award winning Children's books that have been translated into six languages.

1991 to 1994 he achieved national recognition in Canada as the host of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's acclaimed storytelling radio talk show "**Cloud 9**". He was also the host of the CBC TV show **Sunday Arts Entertainment**, which garnered him a 1996 Gemini Award nomination for Best Host in an Arts Program or Series.

He has appeared on a variety of leading Canadian stages, including the prestigious **Stratford Shakespearean Festival, St Lawrence Centre, Theatre Plus, Centre Stage, Factory Theatre, TWP, Theatre Fountainhead, The World Famous Apollo Theatre in New York, Harbourfront, Saidye Bronfman Centre**, and around the Caribbean.

Favourite roles include his popular portrayal of Ken, the lead in "**The Playboy of the West Indies**" (at the Du Maurier World Stage Festival)

He has had leading roles in plays such as, Pinocchio, Ain't Misbehavin', Sophisticated Ladies, The Unseen Hand, The Boyfriend, Dames at Sea, The Threepenny Opera, Guys and Dolls, Smile Orange, Twelfth Night, Measure For Measure, Uncle, Souvenirs,

He was the resident choreographer for the **Childrens' Theatre of Montreal** for five years.

Keens-Douglas has had leading roles in such films as Zero Patience, Dance to Remember, Fields of Endless Days, Fred Penner series, The Aderley series. He has had leads in numerous radio dramas, including the solo reading of fifteen episodes of Cecil Foster's "No Man in the House" for CBC Canada.

As a storyteller, Keens-Douglas has thrilled audiences **across Canada, England, the USA, the Caribbean and at international storytelling festivals.**

His one man show, **Once Upon An Island** was a **Sterling Award** nominee for **Best Touring Production in Edmonton in 1991.**

As a Motivational speaker he is in demand across North America and the Caribbean.



MARK CASSIUS

Music Dramaturg/Mentoring Music Director

Mark Cassius made his Broadway debut in the revival of *Shenandoah* in 1989. He was an original cast member in the World Premier of *Ragtime* (1996) in Toronto. *Ragtime* took him to Broadway for a 2nd time in 1998. The 3rd time's a charm and he was on Broadway again in the revival of *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 2012. That production came out of his 2nd season at The Stratford Festival of Canada in 2011.

In his first season, 2007, his performance as “Mr. Magix” in *My One and Only* won him critical acclaim. Mark Cassius was a cast member of many of Canada’s Mega-Musicals in the 1990s, such as *Cats*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (with Donny Osmond), *Miss Saigon*, and *Showboat*. Regionally, he enjoys performing in shows for D2 Entertainment - *Hollywood Sings*, *A Starbright Christmas*. And always feels at home in front of Drayton Entertainment audiences, - *Damn Yankees*, *The Little mermaid*, *Sweet Charity*, *Dance Legends*. One of the few times doing theatre in Toronto in the past decade, he received a Broadway World, “Best Actor” nomination, for his role in *The Musical of Musicals (The Musical)*. From 1997 – 2005, he was a member of world-renowned acapella group, *The Nylons*, touring with them extensively. He has been a Kiwanis Musical Festival adjudicator, is a wildly sought after vocal coach, has taught at the Randolph College for the Performing Arts and continues to mentor and support young performers. Presently completing a Masters in Music Composition at York University, Mark is passionately invested in and dedicated to the creation and survival of Art.

Follow him on Facebook and Instagram @TheMarkCassius



SHAKEIL ROLLOCK

Choreographer

After years of independent and company work, now venturing into the world of Musical Theatre, Shakeil Rollock is an emerging dancer, choreographer, and dance instructor whose styles encompass urban, modern, ballet, contemporary and jazz. Most recently having finished contracts with The Grand Theatre’s *Mary Poppins* – and currently working on a Disney Plus project alongside Emilio Dosal (*In the Heights*) and Ebony Williams (*Beyoncé*). A graduate of the School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Shakeil developed experience working alongside established artists with tenure in such productions as *Cirque Du Soleil* (Julie Perron & Debra Brown),

the *Step-Up Franchise* (Draico), *Jully Black Entertainment* (*Hollywood Jade*) and *Allen and Karen Kaeja* (*Kaeja d’Dance*). Having been fortunate enough to also work within the *Afro-Contemporary Diaspora* with *Esie Mensah Dance* and *Lua Sheyenne Dance Company*. Lastly, his love for dance extends performing; currently one of *Theatre Passe Muraille’s* 2020 *BUZZ* Residency creators and *BCurrent’s* 2020 resident artist.

Check him out at: www.shakeilrollock.com